

Station: **Manish, AB-102** Report No: **MSC-326**
Reference: **MSC-161** Report Date: **29 August 1946**
Source: **GULL** Information Date: **Present**
Sub Source: **---** Date Info Received: **29 August 1946**
Evaluation: **B-3**
SUBJECT: **Vladimir Mikhailovitch DESPOTULI (Prav. list as DESPOTULI, correct accordingly.)**

Pouch to Bureau, 10/1/46
SECRET

NOTE: Subject was GULL's superior on the Russian newspaper *Novoe Slovo*. Amson memorandum, LEX-939, dated 16 August 1946, quotes a SAINT memorandum which in paragraph #9, requests further information on the subject.

1.- Vladimir Mikhailovitch DESPOTULI comes from a Greek-Russian family. He was born in Kersh, in about 1894 or 1896. He graduated from the Kersh "Gymnasium" and college. He was greatly interested in newspaper work and specialized in being a theatrical critic. Subject often appeared as an amateur in many theatrical productions.

2.- During the first world war (1914-17), subject was a cavalry captain and served as adjutant to General BARATOV, on the Persian front. Subject was a favorite of the General and to the very late kept in close contact with B's children.

3.- In either 1921 or 1922, Subject came to Berlin, where he remained till 1945. In Berlin subject worked as a journalist and a theatrical critic for the newspaper *BUL*. His column was also printed in the Paris *VOZROZHDENIA*, and reprinted in Russian language Shanghai and Hanbin papers. Subject is known to have been very friendly with Jewish Russian emigrants and once appeared on the behalf of a well known Jewish philanthropist *SHEITEL*.

4.- Politically DESPOTULI may be classified as a "moderate radical". His relations with the Berlin Russian monarchists and legitimists, lead by Gen. *BISKUPSKI* (MSC-326), were very cool. At the time Hitler came to power the *NOVOE SLOVO* was under control of Gen. *BISKUPSKI*'s group. However, in 1934, the Nazi *Aussen Politischen Amt* became dissatisfied with the line followed by the *NOVOE SLOVO*, and looked for a new Russian editor. The Chief of *Aussen Politischen Amt*, *APA*, - that is of its political section, was DR. George *LEIBBRANT* (MSC-326), a close friend of DESPOTULI's. *LEIBBRANT* offered the editorship of *NOVOE SLOVO* to the Subject with

not received
LEIBBRANT

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3828
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

SECRET

the understanding that in so far as German matters were concerned the paper would follow the line given by the APA, but it would have "all liberty" on matters of Russian emigrant interest. This action met with strong resistance on the part of the "Gestapo", which held the monarchists and Gen. BISKUPSKI under its wings. The Gestapo declared Gen. B to be the leader of all Russian emigrants and organized for him a new "section", -Russische Vertrauens Stelle. This resulted in personal clashes between Gen. B, with the Gestapo on his side, and DESPOTULI, backed by LEIBERANT and ROSENBERG.

5.-Under DESPOTULI the NOVOR SLOVO followed an independent policy on Russian questions and attracted all shades of journalists to its ranks. The Russian journalists saw in the nationalist-socialist movement the only possible brake on the westward moving tide of Bolshevism. DESPOTULI personally disliked Hitler but accepted him as a temporary ally and financial benefactor. He formerly lived in relative poverty and only upon assuming the editorship of the NOVOR SLOVO, was he able to live in great comfort. He in turn was strongly tied to Germany. His wife, FEHNER was a German, and a doctor of physics at the Univ. of Berlin.

6.-DESPOTULI was an intelligent, crafty man, looking for his own welfare above all other. He was one of the first Russians to know about the "new German policy for Russia", i.e. elimination of Russia as a world power, dividing it into German colonies, and upon Hitler's personal directive "the reduction of Russian people by 20 million". He learned from the APA, which now became the Ministry OST, about the systematic elimination of hundreds of thousands of Russian soldiers who came over to the German side. In spite of this, DESPOTULI feared to come out against the German policy and thus lose the editorship of the NOVOR SLOVO. He followed the Nazi propaganda line to the very end. On the other hand he was instrumental to a certain extent in covering up the activities of the WTSP, which was at that time being persecuted by the Gestapo.

7.-In 1944, with the fall of DR. LEIBERANT, the subject's role came to an end. DESPOTULI was arrested for "cooperating with the WTSP" and in his place, as the editor of NOVOR SLOVO, was placed a Gestapo informant, ANPLEY. Due to his close connection with German military circles he was able to gain a release from prison, and in March 1945 apparently escaped to Switzerland. His escape was facilitated by a Russian Jew, OTZUPOV, a journalist.

(National Workers Union of the New Generation)
an anti-Communist youth organization